

Environmental Public Health Tracking

Update on Year-4 Cost Extension

Planning Consortium Meeting

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Where are we from a funding perspective...

- Beginning of Year 4 cost-extension (ends in June, 2006)
- Also received supplemental funding
 - Support a regional project
 - Demonstrate ability to share health and environmental data among states
- Will need to **compete** for continued funding.
 - RFA due out in early spring.
 - Proposals due in May, 2006. Next round will be 5-years of funding.

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Major Focus for Year 4 ...

- Establishing a surveillance system for ED asthma-related visits attributable to ozone, and expanding to to other respiratory diseases (e.g., COPD)
- Establish a surveillance system for carbon monoxide poisoning that can identify exposure hazards to inform intervention efforts
- Undertake a pilot biomonitoring initiative (metals in childhood blood)
- Continue to enhance existing databases (childhood blood lead, cancer registry, birth defects, developmental disabilities)
- Develop an IT plan for an EPHT Network (IPHis-based)

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Update on Developing Tracking System for Asthma & Ozone

- Expanded analyses from initial focus on Portland area to Statewide – still see significant associations between ozone and asthma ED visits.
- Explored using several different sources of EPA-provided data on ambient air ozone levels (modeled vs monitored)
- Expanded analyses to look at associations between particulate matter and asthma – mixed evidence.
- **Chris and Lisa had a baby boy named Ryan!**

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Update on Developing Tracking System for CO Poisoning

- Performed preliminary linkage work with power outage data from CMP
- Established a national working group on establishing a national surveillance system for CO poisoning.
- Preparing a manuscript about Maine's surveillance data for publication in scientific journal
- Provided assistance to CDC on Hurricane Katrina related CO poisoning
- Evaluating whether to make CO poisoning a reportable disease in Maine

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Update on Biomonitoring Pilot Project

- Have settled on target analytes -- Pb, Cd, Hg, As, U, Mn, Se
- Have developed sampling strategy
 - 1200 children, age 1 – 6 yos
- Drafted data analysis plan
 - distribution of metal levels by age, by sex, by region (?)
 - look at how metals co-vary
- HELT has validated urine method for metals, working on blood method for metals
- Hope to begin collecting samples in January or February

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Update on Assessing Feasibility of a Developmental Disability Surveillance System based on DEC's

- Completed information gathering from four BOH-funded Developmental Evaluation Clinics (DEC)
- Evaluated potential role of DEC data system in developmental disabilities surveillance in Maine
 - can play a role, but cannot be core of such a system
 - limited geographic coverage, availability of other providers, limited ages served, possible referral bias
- Planning for developing an online electronic reporting system for DEC's to report case data
 - to be piloted in January/February 2006.

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Update on Enhancing Existing Databases

- Maine Cancer Registry completed initial efforts to geo-code their 1995 – 2002 data.
- Childhood blood lead data for 2003 have been cleaned.
- Have developed the capability via IPHIS to allow the direct electronic reporting for adult blood lead testing data by commercial laboratories.
- Have funded an epidemiologist to develop a plan for data analysis and data use for the Birth Defects Registry

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Update on “120-day” EPHT Network Plan

- Required to develop a plan for the phased development of an EPHT Network System
 - ...that allows direct electronic reporting and linkage of data
 - ...that is interoperable with out public health systems
 - ...that is compatible with NEDSS, NEIEN, and BT
- Our plan is based on using capabilities of IPHIS
- IPHIS to be operational in winter / spring of 2006
- Challenge is to map how our current efforts can be enhanced by making use of IPHIS
- Plan due in January 2006